

## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **4 August 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scheussler et al (USPN 6,366,950, hereinafter “Scheussler”).

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-24 were rejected as being anticipated by Scheussler. Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner intended to make a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon the combination of Scheussler and Balogh (USPub 2003/0084039, hereinafter “Balogh”) since the rejection of independent claims 1, 9, and 17 combines these two references.

In rejecting dependent claims 7, 15, and 23, the Examiner avers that Scheussler teaches “wherein hashing mechanism is further configured to check a column attribute in the database to determine that “privacy” is enabled and only upon being enabled, creating the hash” at col. 7, lines 1-6. Applicant respectfully points out that Scheussler teaches **creating a contact list** and checking the contact list to determine if an incoming e-mail is **from an authorized user** in that contact list at the cited reference.

In contrast, the present invention **checks a column attribute for a column** in the database to determine that “privacy” is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, **creates the hash of the private information** (see FIG. 2 and paragraph [0021] of the instant application). This is not the same as creating a contact list and checking the contact list to determine if an incoming e-mail is from an authorized user in that contact list. The present invention is beneficial because it provides a technique for determining if a given column in the database is marked for “privacy” and that the column in the database contains a hash value rather than private data. There is nothing within Scheussler or Balogh, either separately or in concert, which suggests checking a

column attribute for a column in the database to determine that “privacy” is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, creating the hash of the private information.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to include the limitations of dependent claims 7, 15, and 23, respectively, to clarify that the present invention checks a column attribute for a column in the database to determine that “privacy” is enabled for the column, and only upon privacy being enabled for the column, creates the hash of the private information. These amendments find support in FIG. 2 and in paragraph [0021] of the instant application. Dependent claims 7, 15, and 23 have been canceled without prejudice.

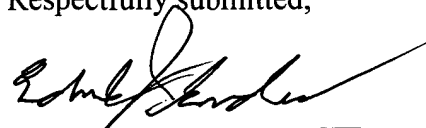
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-6 and 8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-14 and 16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-22 and 24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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